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# TROUBLE IN PARADISE

"A Communist must be prepared to make every sacrifice and, if necessary, even resort to all sorts of schemes and stratagems, employ illegitimate methods, conceal the truth, in order to get into the trade unions, stay there, and conduct the revolutionary work within..."  
— V.I. Lenin, *Selected Works*, Vol. XVII, 142-45.  
(Russian edition).

Oh, for those enchanted evenings back in the halcyon Eisenhower era when the only trouble in the paradise that once was the South Pacific was whether Ezio Pinza would be washed right out of Mary Martin's frizzled hairdo and whether Luther Billis would ever find himself a dame!

Well, hold on to memories of those long-gone days. The Pacific, one-time backdrop for saronged reveries, is now an arena for Soviet military-political intrusion and subversion. All those once seductive, day-dreaming miniparadises in the Marianas, the Gilberts, Micronesia, Melanesia, the whole bundle of island ministates are now up for grabs, with the U.S.S.R. the apparent highest bidder for nothing more than innocent fishing rights and, oh! yes, a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific.

That is, the New Zealand "sickness" — no nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed U.S. ships may call at New Zealand ports — is spreading northward to the many Pacific islands which are now independent archipelagoes with United Nations membership yet.

Owen Harries, former Australian ambassador to UNESCO, writing in the June *Commentary*, believes that "there are clear signs of imminent deterioration in the strategic situation in the Southeast Asia-Southwest Pacific area." The out-

come of the struggle for naval supremacy in the area between the United States and the U.S.S.R. may determine the destiny of the Free World, including Western Europe.

What has been going on in the area is really a classic case-history of a long-term Soviet political investment which is paying off. And that means trouble for the United States and those Pacific Rim countries friendly or allied to us, like Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Singapore, and the Philippines.

The Soviet grab at the Pacific begins in faraway Prague, Czechoslovakia. There, in 1978, opened the ninth congress of the World Federation of Trade Unions, Moscow's international labor front, which has very little to do with trade unionism and everything to do with supporting Soviet foreign policy aspirations. Out of this WFTU congress emerged two brand-new labor organizations in Southeast Asia to support a Pacific "peace movement." And, naturally, these organizations had the support of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

According to an Australian student of South Pacific developments, John Whitehall, the aims of the labor and church organizations are:

1. To bar nuclear-powered and armed ships of the United States from entering the South Pacific.

2. To abolish "foreign" military bases which, of course, means those of the United States. The powerful Soviet naval base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam goes unmentioned. And the fact that the U.S.S.R. has asked North Korea's Kim Il Sung for a naval base is equally unmentioned.

3. To dismantle the Australia-New Zealand-U.S. treaty and the U.S.-Japan security treaty. The first half of that plank is on the road to achievement since New Zealand decided to bar U.S. nuclear ships from its harbors.

4. To combat "imperialism," meaning, of course, the United States.

5. To support "independence struggles," such as the Communist New Peoples Army in the Philippines, which if they overthrew the Marcos regime would put an end to U.S. bases at Clark Field, Subic Bay, and Baguio. As Mr. Whitehall points out in the magazine *Freedom at Issue*, these U.S. bases in the Philippines "defend the free flow of oil, all

the way from the ground in the Middle East to oil-dependent Asian and Pacific industry."

6. To prevent the use of nuclear power for generation of electricity in the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea, thus ensuring the dependency of these countries on oil and their consequent vulnerability to blockade by the powerful Soviet

Navy which roams the Pacific.

The key labor organization in the South Pacific region was established in Sydney, Australia, by delegates to the ninth WFTU Congress. The organization's base are Australian unions affiliated to the WFTU, rather than affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, to which the AFL-CIO and other democratic labor federations belong. The new Pacific labor organization has the high-sounding title Committee for International Trade Union Unity. According to Mr. Whitehall, "many of its leaders are prominent pro-Soviet Communists who are working closely with unionists of similar persuasion in New Zealand."

CITUU has been organizing conferences and study programs in the Indian Ocean, Southeast Asia, and Pacific regions. Pacific islanders have been sent to the Soviet Union, while Soviet and Vietnamese Communist officials have been the leading speakers at various area conferences.

CITUU has allied itself with the Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services, a WFTU affiliate which follows the Moscow line — no nuclear power in the Pacific and shut down U.S. bases in the Philippines. CITUU has a small triumph to its credit: the Solomon Islands are now affiliated with the WFTU.

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A CITUU leader is Pat Clancy, one-time head of the pro-Soviet Socialist Party of Australia and now an official of both the WFTU and another Soviet front, the World Peace Council. He defends Soviet bases in Southeast Asia as an essential "peaceful" counterforce to America's "aggressive" nuclear-powered submarine fleet. He defends Soviet nuclear power for generating electricity on the grounds that it is "safe, necessary and cheap ... but that in 'capitalist' hands atomic energy is corrupt."

Another Australian delegate to the ninth WFTU Congress was John Halfpenny, for almost a quarter of a century a leading member, according to Mr. Whitehall, of the Communist Party of Australia. He is now a member of the governing Labor Party and supposedly has resigned from the CPA. Mr. Halfpenny is on the World Peace Council and is leader of the Australian Metalworkers Union.

In 1980, he and two other CPA associates attended the "Third Nuclear Free Pacific Conference" in Hawaii, which brought together unionists from other Pacific countries. Out of that meeting came a second trade union group, called the "Pacific Trade Union Forum." A year later, in Vanuatu (formerly the New Hebrides), the PTUF held its first conference, joining up with CITUU. The U.S.S.R. sent observers to that conference. PTUF now has official sponsorship of 13 trade union congresses among Pacific countries. In 1982, it held a Pacific-wide conference in Noumea at which it urged Pacific governments "to develop courses in school which are directed toward peace and disarmament."

A new Soviet "transmission belt" emerged out of the third Hawaii Nuclear Free Pacific conference in 1980 — the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, which created an international protest against the U.S. Trident submarine. The United States is seeking bases in Palau in Micronesia and at Cockburn Sound in Australia. However, Palau has now adopted a "nuclear-free" constitution which would ban nuclear-armed and powered ships from entering a radius of some 200 miles from Palau, so no U.S. naval base. The same conference, which announced support

for "liberation movements" in the Philippines and French New Caledonia, where a minor civil war has erupted, also demanded that Hawaii be returned to the "indigenous" peoples.

According to Ambassador Harries, Col. Muammar Qaddafi brought to Libya for military training a group from the "Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front," which seeks to oust the French from New Caledonia. Thus Libya, a member of the Radical Entente (Syria, Iran, Libya, North Korea, and Cuba) serves Soviet interests.

The 1983 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference in Vanuatu came out against "Rimpac" (for Pacific Rim) military exercises, jointly held by the United States, Australia, Canada, and Japan. It also condemned U.S. policies in Central America. This conference, the fourth, was arranged by the PCRC and the Vanuatu Peoples Coordinating Committee, according to Mr. Whitehall, with large grants from the National Council of Churches and the Australian Council of Churches. Major funding, however, has come from the Dutch organization of Protestant churches, the Inter-Church Coordinating Committee of Holland (ICCO), which receives direct grants from the Dutch government — a member of NATO! — supposedly for Third World aid and development. ICCO gave the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement more than \$150,000 for what is essentially a Soviet transmission belt working against democratic security interests in the Pacific. As Mr. Whitehall writes:

"One wonders if the Dutch government has considered the morality of supporting the U.S. Navy through NATO in the Atlantic, while scuttling it in the Pacific."

Another Soviet front which goes back to the 1960s is the Pacific Conference of Churches, subsidized by the World Council of Churches. Active in the PCRC, its objectives parallel those of the Ninth WFTU Congress — (1) opposition to the Rimpac military exercises; (2) opposition to NATO and ANZUS, and (3) opposition to U.S. bases, specifically the Omega communications centers in Australia and landing rights for B-52 bombers in Darwin, Northern Australia. The PCC is introducing a program of "peace education" whose materials are distributed to member churches.

The PCC has published a book, *A Call to a New Exodus*, whose basic message is unilateral disarmament. The book calls for nonviolent means of protest and non-cooperation, offering as examples of successful defiance of foreign conquerors the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian resistance to Soviet invasions. These resistance movements were, of course, unsuccessful, but how many people in the Pacific would know that? The text and photographs in the book are entirely about the menace represented by the United States. Soviet ideology and Soviet military power in the Pacific are ignored.

How successful has this massive, Soviet-inspired campaign been?

- Vanuatu bans nuclear-powered and armed U.S. ships from its waters. Cuba and the island now have diplomatic relations.

- The Solomon Islands bans U.S. ships.

- Fiji has banned a U.S. warship but is reconsidering its position.

- French New Caledonia, where rebels are being trained by Mr. Qaddafi, could become another Algeria.

- Papua-New Guinea has rejected a U.S. request to allow Philippines-based B-52s to overfly New Guinea and is also considering closing its ports to U.S. naval vessels.

- Palau may deny the United States an important base.

- The pro-Moscow New Zealand labor movement which led the successful campaign to bar U.S. ships from that country is calling for the expulsion of the United States from the entire Pacific.

All these are the visible effects of a decade of Soviet political investment. The less visible effects are, as Mr. Whitehall puts it, "the erosion of confidence in the United States that will occur as a result of constant, skillful, anti-American propaganda."